

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #06**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis

Nancy Petersen
Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

The Board Chair called the meeting to order with recognition that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

A. Roll Call: (2:00 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the November 24, 2020, Board meeting be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that the White Ribbon Campaign has been running for 18 years, and was founded by a group of men in Canada who felt that they had to raise awareness and work towards prevention of violence against women. She explained that the wearing of the white ribbon is a tradition that stands for never taking part in, condoning or staying silent about violence against

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women. Due to COVID-19, the distribution of 10,000 white ribbons usually undertaken by CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff) has been suspended for the 2020-2021 school year. The Board Chair advised that instead of distributing white ribbons, CUPE Local 474 will be making a sizable donation on behalf of Edmonton Public School Custodial workers to various organizations that support this work. The Board of Trustees endorsed this campaign in 1994 and urges schools and staff to recognize this initiative. The Board Chair thanked CUPE Local 474 for their donation, support and acknowledgement that violence against women is unacceptable.

The Board Chair said the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the Division's schools can be directly correlated to what is happening in Edmonton. The Board Chair shared that since November 14 the Province has seen daily case numbers exceeding a thousand cases per day. She said that the Division feels this in its schools.

The Board Chair advised that staff in the Division are working extremely hard to keep students and each other safe. They are going above and beyond because of the heart they bring to the Division and their great care for the students and families the Division serves.

The Board Chair advised that she would be calling a recess during the meeting in order for the Board of Trustees and Administration to listen to Premier Kenney's press conference on next steps the province will be implementing due to increasing COVID-19 cases in Alberta. She advised that if there is an announcement about schools at 4:30 p.m. today, it will be the first time the Board of Trustees is being made aware of any changes.

The Board Chair shared that results review meetings are Trustee-led discussions and are part of the important work Trustees do in the interests of accountability and transparency to the public and the families they serve. She said that there are amazing stories of staff caring for each other and for students during these challenging times. She thanked everyone who has made time for these important conversations.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent gave a shout out to Division staff and students and said they are truly heroes in this pandemic. He shared that they are working very hard to keep safe and to keep learning going. The Superintendent shared that he is very proud of everyone.

The Superintendent expressed his appreciation of the Board of Trustees for the time they have in invested in results reviews. He shared that the Division's schools are very proud to share their stories, challenges and opportunities with the Board annually. The Superintendent thanked the many parents that also participate in discussions about education.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #05 – November 3, 2020

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“That the minutes of Board Meeting #05 held November 3, 2020, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

G. Reports

2. COVID-19 Impact on the Division during Quarter 1
Response to Request for Information #083

Information was provided regarding Request for Information #083.

3. 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:

“That the 2019-2020 audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and unaudited schedules be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

4. Annual Education Results Report (2019-2020)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Annual Education Results Report (2019-2020) be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Adams requested that results from the Division’s partnership with the Kitaskinaw Education Authority (KEA) of Enoch Cree Nation be provided to the Trustees. The Superintendent advised that a fulsome report will be provided at a future Board meeting.

Trustee Gibson remarked that the Division has put significant resources and effort into early learning but noted the trend for Grade 1 reading at grade level declines every year from 2015 forward. Trustee Gibson referenced the Early Years Evaluation - Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) data on pages 49-52 of the report and questioned whether there is an opportunity to make correlations of how well pre-Kindergarten students achieve in Kindergarten and Grade 1 by the various tiers as to readiness. Trustee Gibson asked that Administration provide information that would confirm

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that early intervention is actually preparing and demonstrating students are able to read at a Grade 1 level.

The Board Chair called a recess to allow time for Premier Kenney's announcement.

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:

"That Reports 2,3,4 and 5 be deferred to the December 8, 2020, Board meeting."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

2. Report #20 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held November 3, 2020)
3. Amendment to the 2020-21 School Year Calendar
4. Funds for the 2021-2022 Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff
5. Funds for the 2021-2022 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

There were no reports for this item.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None**J. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees write a letter to Premier Kenney requesting:

- Immediate access to the federal contact tracer app, "COVID Alert".
- School board flexibility to determine local transition to online learning for schools.
- Specific public metrics when to return to in-person learning, such as a zero-contact tracing backlog and a threshold of community transmission.
- Sharing of data on suspected incidents of in-school transmission with school divisions to inform and adapt safety measures.

K. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**L. Adjournment: 5:45 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations